

July 2, 2007

The Board of Public Works & Safety met at 1:30 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Knowles presiding and Board member Williams attending. Board member Askren was not present. Others attending were Chief Reese; Supt. Givens; GIS Analyst Andrews; Comm. Epison; Chief Beloit; Attorney Funkhouser; Detective John Dike; and Pat Beamon.

Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. She added if not, she entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Williams moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Mayor Knowles, who then stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles requested action on the claims presented. Board member Williams moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Mayor Knowles, who then stated the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Knowles stated they also need to approve the payment of payrolls on the 6<sup>th</sup> and claims on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Board member Williams moved the claims and payrolls be allowed for payment. Seconded by Mayor Knowles, who then stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles stated they will now hear the reports of the Departments.

Chief Beloit stated he has no report.  
Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Comm. Epison stated a storm last week blew down a tree in the middle of a ditch in Country Club Estates (a feeder ditch). He added normally this is the homeowner's responsibility, but when it fell, it hit another tree that is itself in the ditch and blocking the flow of the ditch. He added he has a quote to have the tree removed, and it is stapled to the pictures that he circulated to the Board. Board member Williams asked if the city attorney has taken a look at the pictures? Comm. Epison replied no, he has not seen them yet. Mayor Knowles stated many folks feel that the ditches belong to the city, but that is not the case, the property line actually gives to the middle of the ditch to one land owner and the other side to the opposite land owner. She added there are also lots of other trees along this same ditch....



Board member Williams agreed and added they do not want to open a can of worms with this.

Mayor Knowles agreed.

Comm. Epison stated the tree itself being in the ditch isn't so much the problem as the limbs that are blocking the flow. He added the city could remove the limbs and have the homeowner remove the tree itself, at their convenience. He added he just concerned with the flow of the ditch.

Board member Williams stated the tree is on private property and it is their responsibility. Mayor Knowles agreed as well.

Board member Williams asked that Attorney Funkhouser look into the situation and give his opinion to the Board.

Comm. Epison continued his report by stating they are dealing with some storm sewer issues around town, one being Mulberry and Water. He added he had been forced to dig that area up earlier than he would have liked, and as a result, found out that the main line that runs through there is cracked all the way through, up and down the line. He stated he is asking permission to get a firm in to televise the line, and he has two quotes with him today. He added once the line is televised, he can then tell the actual damage throughout the entire line. He stated he could sleeve the lines and save the city money, if not, he may have to dig up the line and replace curbs and sidewalks damaged in the process.

Mayor Knowles asked if the quotes were on a per hour basis ?

Comm. Epison replied yes.

Mayor Knowles added Russell is a local firm and wondered how long it would take them to do the work ?

Comm. Epison replied they did not indicate that.

Supt. Givens added it would depend on what they find once they get in the line; they also may not be able to get far enough up into the line with their equipment to tell.

Mayor Knowles stated she did not realize that Russell did that kind of work and that they had a camera.

Comm. Epison stated they would begin on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and go down from there, though about 50 feet into it they will probably encounter major tree roots.

Mayor Knowles stated she feels they should take the quote of the local firm.

Board member Williams agreed and added at the rate of \$100 per hour.

Board consented.

Comm. Epison stated he will bring the results to the next meeting. He then concluded his report by stating the Riverfront will be blocked July 7 for the annual fireworks display.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Supt. Givens stated along the topic of televising lines, there is some sinkholes on Sawmill that need to be televised. He added there is also some overflow in the area that he believes to be storm sewer issues. He stated the sinkhole in Mrs. Benner's yard is 13ft deep and their backhoes won't reach it, this needs to be televised to check the situation out.

Mayor Knowles stated the LTCP addresses having some lines televised, is this part of that ?



Supt. Givens replied no, that would be Canal Street. He added if the Board agrees, he can also have Russell do this job for him.

Mayor Knowles agreed and added they are a local firm, charging by the hour, and she would rather do that than get an outside firm. She added she is fine with that.

Supt. Givens continued by stating property owners are responsible for their lines up to the point of the tap, and most of the sewer department's repairs have been done on lateral lines. He wondered if the city needs to change their ordinance to protect the sewer department.

Mayor Knowles wondered what other cities the sizes of Mt. Vernon do about this. She stated Ms. Bethel should check into that and see if maybe they have an ordinance on the books that deals with that. She added people may not be aware of their responsibilities when they call for a repair.

Board member Williams stated they do need to make sure the homeowner understands that they could be taking a crap shoot when they call for help with a sewer issue, he added, he is not sure what the answer is.

Supt. Givens agreed and added it isn't fair.

Board member Williams agreed they should check other communities, it doesn't sound right.

Supt. Givens agreed.

Mayor Knowles stated Board gives consent to have Russell's investigate the storm sewer issues.

Supt. Givens asked what if their camera can't go in far enough ?

Mayor Knowles stated the work has to be done.

Board member Williams stated the sewer department needs to make sure before any digging is done that the homeowner knows they could be responsible.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Williams stated he toured the treatment plant and was very, very impressed. He added the employees are proud of their work and it shows, they are doing a very good job.

Chief Reese stated he has one quote for the repair/replacement of the roof over the fire and police department. He added the quote is very high and not many folks want to do the work as the roof line is very steep.

Board member Williams stated seeing as there is talk about building a new police and fire station in the near future, he sees no need to do the full repair. He then moved the Board accept the quote for the REPAIR, not replacement to the roof of the police and fire station, submitted by Charles Lawrence. Seconded by Mayor Knowles, who then stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles stated Det. John Dike is present concerning his military leave in 1998 and 1999. She explained he is willing to pay his portion of PERF, if the City will pay their 21%. She then stated Attorney Funkhouser has looked into this.

Attorney Funkhouser replied he could get no direct answer, though there is a military leave statute and it indicates the city should pay their share.

Board member Williams stated to him it is a mute point, he was serving his country and it is the city's obligation and his request is more than fair.



Mayor Knowles agreed and added Board member Askren had been concerned about this opening a can of worms but after talking with Chief Beloit, he stated this is “military specific” only.

Attorney Funkhouser added FMLA also has its own set of rules and wondered if any other department would run into this military issue ?

Chief Beloit stated there are no others in his department.

Supt. Givens, Comm. Epison and Chief Reese all agreed it did not effect their departments.

Board member Williams stated he respects and agrees with Board member Askren’s concerns but military leave should be treated differently. He then moved that Detective Dike pay his share of PERF from 1998 and 1999 and the city will pay their 21%.

Seconded by Mayor Knowles, who then stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

Pat Beamon approached and stated he had been her a few months ago concerning arkea. He added he has given the Board a report of the findings from the study and stated the results were pretty good. He added it got rid of the foam and there was some solid reduction, and some increase, but the data received was good. He added the findings were pretty inconclusive actually and he appreciates the city letting him do the testing. Mayor Knowles thanked him.

Supt. Givens stated during the testing he was having south side clarifier issues and he tried to keep his operation confined to one side and let the arkea take over the other side. He added he gave up his vacation to come in on work on the south side clarifier. He then stated the old side of the plant cleans itself pretty good but there was foam on the south side but it left after some chlorine was put in. He added he was not totally impressed with the performance of the arkea, but he will watch for any new changes.

Mayor Knowles asked if Mr. Andrews had a report ?

Mr. Andrews replied he has no report.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Knowles stated if there were no further business, she entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Williams moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mayor Knowles, who then stated the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

---

Rosemary L. Knowles  
Mayor



ATTEST: